

INS Special Board Meeting Agenda: 2022 Election Procedures
August 18/19, 2022

PRESENT: Ida Sue Baron, Tatia Lee, Shawn McClintock, Jonathan Evans, Sanne Schagen, Fiona Kumfor, Desiree Byrd, Karen Blackmon, Sallie Baxendale, Marc Norman, Ozioma Okonkwo, Skye McDonald. Marc Norman, Glenn Smith, Alberto Fernández.

ABSENT: Nara Andrade.

GUEST: Margaret O'Connor

Introduction

Ida Sue Baron thanked everyone for attending with short notice.

Nominations Process Review

Margaret O'Connor explained that the nomination committee members were selected by the president elect, the past president and the current president. This year are members from Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, and North America. The presidential ballot was designated for candidates from non-English speaking countries. After deciding on the candidates, Marc Norman sent the names to Conflict-of-Interest Committee and then they approached the candidates to check if they were interested in running. Some days ago, an INS member approached Margaret O'Connor saying he would like to self-nominate. She explained to this person the decision that was made by the BOD trying to include candidates from non-English speaking countries. This candidate said that he would run this year anyway. That member started collecting endorsements. Margaret O'Connor informed that there are currently 37 or 38 signatures supporting this self-nomination. It is very likely that that this member will obtain the required signatures. It is necessary to define when communication will happen with the candidates, when the election will take place and how the candidates will be elected.

Ida Sue Baron said that the procedure followed for the nominations is not according to the Bylaws. She added that one step was not followed. She said that she felt uncomfortable with the suggestion that because the self-nominated candidate is North American, he would win the election.

Skye McDonald asked what step was not followed. Ida Sue Baron answered that after the slate was approved in July it was supposed to be sent to the membership. After that the members have the option to self-nominate within 30 days, and then the election proceeds. She said that slate was not sent in due time to the membership. Skye

McDonald asked how this would have changed the current situation. Ida Sue Baron answered that it is potentially possible that someone else would have self-nominated if they have seen the slate. Marc Norman explained that there is no indication step-by-step in the Bylaws. The idea is that the process is part of the Policies & Procedures Manual. He thinks there is nothing missed as it is not specified in the Bylaws. Ida Sue Baron read the Bylaws and there was disagreement between them in the interpretation of them.

Glenn Smith expressed that the discussion of the general procedure should be deferred for later in order to make decisions on the primary goals. He said that one primary goal is to know if the candidates would have run if they knew who was on the slate (the added American candidate). He thinks that the initially proposed candidates should be given the opportunity to withdraw their nominations. He would also like to know how the organization would run the election with three candidates.

Sanne Schagen said that if there are now three candidates on the slate the BOD should re-consider the decision made on the July meeting about having three candidates, decision that was later retracted.

Margaret O'Connor said that there is an inherent bias in the ballot when there are North American candidates because they are more well known to the membership. Glenn Smith expressed that the organization must respond to the will of the members.

Margaret O'Connor answered that although she agrees with this view, the membership should be informed on the abundance of North American presidents and members and remind them that the mission of the organization is global. She also explained that in the next years the endorsing members could self-nominate and give a very dominant North American meeting.

Fiona Kumfor asked about the existing policy for self-nomination and if there was a vetting procedure. Margaret O'Connor answered that there is vetting only if there is a conflict of interest.

Skye McDonald said that although she agrees that the organization should be open to the members, she called the attention that the INS has not had a candidate from a non-English speaking country in 23 years. The current nominees were said that there would be other candidates from non-English speaking countries. She also noted that the BOD strategically should broaden the horizons of the society, otherwise it would concentrate more and more on North American members. The decision of the three cycles is in alignment with the decision made many years ago by BOD members when they established the cycle North American/non-North American candidates.

Jonathan Evans said that the BOD must follow the rules, but the initially proposed candidates were informed that their opponents would be candidates from non-North American countries, therefore the other nominees should be informed about this issue. If they agree with this, then the election could be run.

MOTION: Assuming that this North American self-nominated candidate will reach the threshold of endorsements to be added to the ballot by August 24th the BOD should notify the two other presidential candidates that the North American candidate has

met criteria and invite their response weather they want to remain on the ballot or not.

Motion by Glenn Smith

Seconded by Jonathan Evans

All in favor.

Fiona Kumfor said that the candidates should be informed and not encouraged to withdraw their nominations. Ida Sue Baron agreed with her.

Margaret O'Connor suggested that Marc Norman should contact the candidates.

Sanne Schagen asked about the third person who was initially included in the July meeting and then excluded because the BOD retracted the decision. Marc Norman explained that he reached out several members, but he did not give them any specific information. No one was removed from the situation where he/she was wanting to run. Ida Sue Baron explained that the BOD needs to decide on the voting system.

Ozioma Okonkwo asked if the BOD communicated that this would be an election for candidates from non-English candidates. Skye McDonald answered that she wrote about it in a newsletter and in a presidential address. He also asked that if the self-nominated candidate is in contravention if he/she was informed. Ida Sue Baron said that in her opinion that is not a contravention. Glenn Smith said that because this member is following the Bylaws not allowing him/her to self-nominate would require a Bylaws change.

Ida Sue Baron noted that the reason why the information on the slate must be provided to the membership after the candidates have been nominated is to allow the members to decide about the candidates selected by the BOD. Skye McDonald explained that the Bylaws were re-written to make them very simple, but they do not stipulate steps. She explained the ranked-choice system. Desiree Byrd said that at least some fraction of the members are educated with the BOD decisions. She said that it is very easy to see that this is American centered because very few members are involved in the decisions of the BOD and the BOD has the right to educate the membership in terms of the goals of the organization.

Glenn Smith asked what would happen in the case that the self-nominated candidate cannot reach the threshold of endorsements or if one of the current candidates withdraws his/her nomination.

Voting Method

Marc Norman explained that if there are 3 candidates, there will probably not be a majority vote. If there are three candidates on the ballot the options are: 1) Bylaws change, the term "majority" should be changed to "plurality", 2) preferential voting or ranked choice, in which the person in the third place is eliminated if no one obtains the majority of the votes. Then the second-preference choices for those that ranked the

eliminated candidate first are distributed among the other two candidates. However, the legal counselor said that if the BOD does that there must be a Bylaws change. Ida Sue Baron asked if this attorney worked in the writing of the Bylaws to which Marc Norman answered that he did.

Tatia Lee asked how soon the Bylaw change can be made. Marc Norman said that the changes should be explained to the members and time for feedback should be given. This process would take probably one month. Sanne Schagen noted that since the Bylaws must be changed all changes should be made now considering future scenarios. She also asked what would happen if both current candidates withdrew their nominations.

Glenn Smith said that in his opinion the ranked choice is a procedure that would not contradict the current Bylaws in such a way that Bylaws should be modified. Marc Norman explained that the counselor's explanation was not very clear about the reason. Fiona Kumfor suggested obtaining additional legal advice on the topic before deciding a change in the Bylaws.

Ida Sue Baron expressed that since the process followed the Bylaws changing them in the middle of the election cycle would be risky considering the reaction of the candidates. She also said that sending two votes to the membership is not recommended now.

Margaret O'Connor also expressed that the ranked order seems more of a process than a Bylaws issue. She also suggested asking additional legal advice with the organization's lawyer.

Alberto Fernández said that if the lawyer confirms that Bylaws need to be changed, then the BOD would be in the same situation it is currently, so a decision should be made in this meeting. Glenn Smith said that in the September meeting the BOD will have more information to make the decision.

Marc Norman presented a potential scenario in which one of the current candidates asked if he/she can be nominated again if in the current election a North American candidate is elected. He asked for the position of the BOD regarding this possibility. Margaret O'Connor asked what would happen if the self-nominated person is close, but some votes were not considered because the members are not in good standing position. She asked if the candidate should be informed about this. Marc Norman emphasized the importance of the BOD position in this topic. Sallie Baxendale asked if members that are not in good standing position can endorse again that candidate once they pay their dues.

In answering to the potential scenario presented by Marc Norman, Jonathan Evans said that in his opinion these candidates can self-nominate themselves.

There was agreement that candidates cannot be guaranteed that they will be nominated again.

Marc Norman explained that if only one person is nominated then the Secretary creates a unanimous vote on behalf the entire membership.

Fiona Kumfor proposed to vote the ranked choice and decide.

Glenn asked if a third candidate should be added to the other ballots since the ranked choice is the elected method for this election. Shawn McClintock answered that in his experience in other organizations having ranked choice as the election method does not imply having more than two candidates on the ballot.

Sanne Schagen said that in her opinion the idea of three candidates in the other categories should be re-considered.

MOTION: To proceed with the ranked choice approach in the next election in the event that in any or all slates have more than two candidates.

Motion by Fiona Kumfor.

Seconded by Jonathan Evans

All in favor.

MOTION: To go back to the original vote from Barcelona meeting in which we decided to have more than two people for each position.

Motion by Sanne Schagen.

Marc Norman asked for more clarification about this motion to not make an arbitrary decision about the number of candidates per category. Ida Sue Baron said that the ranked choice could make the system very complex. Marc Norman answered that this would not be very complicated.

Jonathan Evans said that the timing for this election is too tight to make a decision in regards Sanne Schagen's motion. Karen Blackmon proposed a re-voting of the Barcelona motion. Ida Sue Baron proposed to discuss this motion in the next meeting.

Sanne Schagen withdrew her motion.

Skye McDonald proposed to make more specific the P&P rather than changing the Bylaws. Marc Norman agreed with that.

Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned after one hour and thirty-nine minutes.

